

Narrative perspectives - point of view (easy/intermediate)



Name:

Date:



Narrative perspectives (point of view)

First-person narration

Imagine you're the main character, and you're telling the story directly. You use words like "I", "me", and "my". It's like sharing your personal experiences. For example, "I walked down the dark alley, hear pounding."

Second-person narration

This one is rare. It's like the narrator is talking directly to you, using the word "you". It's often seen in interactive books or game instructions. For instance, "you open the mysterious door."

Third-person narration

Here, the narrator isn't part of the story. They observe and tell about other characters.

Remember, the point of view affects how you connect with the characters and understand the story. Perspectives change perception! So next time you read, pay attention to who's telling the tale.

Read the short stories

My heart raced as I felt the wind pick up and the sailboat began to glide across the water. The thrill of being at the helm, controlling the direction of the boat with just the slightest turn of the wheel, was exhilarating. The sun was setting, casting a warm orange glow over the horizon. The water was calm, with only the occasional ripple from a passing fish or the gentle lapping of the waves against the hull. Sailing had always been my escape, a way to leave the chaos of everyday life behind and find peace out on the open water. There was nothing quite like the feeling of being one with the wind and the waves, moving effortlessly through the sea.

Your hands grip the wheel tightly as you steer the sailboat through the deep blue waves. The wind whips your hair around your face and the salty air fills your lungs. You can feel the power of the ocean beneath you, the boat responding to your every command. You've been sailing for years, but the thrill never gets old. Each time you're out on the water, it's a new adventure, a chance to test your skills and push your limits. You look out at the horizon, the sun dipping lower in the sky, and you can't help but feel a sense of awe at the beauty that surrounds you. Sailing is more than just a hobby, it's a passion that has become a part of your very being.

She stood on the bow of the sailboat, her eyes fixed on the horizon as the boat cut through the water. The wind was strong, but she was stronger, her years of experience guiding her every move. Her crew

worked around her, following her lead as they adjusted the sails and kept the boat on course. Sailing was not just a job for her, it was a calling. It was the one place where she felt truly alive, where the worries of the world melted away and all that mattered was the feel of the wind in her hair and the sound of the waves against the hull. As the sun began to set, she knew that there was nowhere else she would rather be, than out on the open sea, sailing into the unknown.

Answer the questions.

Describe the narrative perspective used in the first short story.

Explain how the narrative perspective in the second short story differs from the first.

Name the narrative perspective used in the third short story and explain how it affects the story.

Which narrative perspective, out of the three, do you think brings the reader closest to the protagonist and why?

About narrative perspectives

Select the correct answer.

What is the main purpose of using a first person narrative perspective in a story?

- ☐ To create distance and objectivity ☐ To provide a direct, personal viewpoint

Which narrative perspective involves the reader as a character using 'you'?

- ☐ Second person ☐ Third person

In third person limited narrative, from whose perspective is the story generally told?

- ☐ Multiple characters ☐ A single character

Which narrative perspective is typically used to provide an objective and all-knowing viewpoint of the story?

- ☐ Third person omniscient ☐ First person

What is the main advantage of using a second person narrative perspective?

- ☐ It creates a direct connection with the reader ☐ It offers a global perspective of the story

The use of 'I' or 'We' in a story typically indicates which type of narrative perspective?

- ☐ First person ☐ Second person

What is the primary limitation of first person narrative perspective?

- ☐ It can only present the perspective of multiple characters
☐ It's limited to the knowledge and experiences of one character

Which narrative perspective offers the freedom to explore multiple characters' thoughts and feelings?

- ☐ Second person ☐ Third person omniscient

Change the perspective

Rewrite a paragraph of a novel from a different perspective. See how the story changes!
